

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.
2. Amendment received June 11, 2008 has been entered into record. *Claims 3-7, 9-10, and 12-16* remain pending.

Response to Amendment

3. This office action is in response to the Applicant's Request for Continued Examination Amendment filed on June 11, 2008. Applicant amended *claims 3 and 15*. *Claims 3-7, 9-10, and 12-16* are presented for further consideration and examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3-7, 9-10, 12, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Celik (US006374259B1), in view of Delany et al. (US006658454B1), and further in view of Chaganti et al. (US006845448B1).
6. With regard to claim 3, Celik discloses,
- *receiving, over the Internet, contact information regarding a user;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)
Celik teaches of “an information management method [that] includes step of ... storing information coupled to a remote computer” (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing “a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access] the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18” (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16).
 - *storing in a computer accessible memory the contact information regarding the user;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)
Celik teaches of “an information management method [that] includes step of ... storing information coupled to a remote computer” (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing “a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access] the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18” (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16).

- *receiving, over the Internet, information regarding contacts of the user;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)

Celik teaches of *"an information management method [that] includes step of ... storing information coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing *"a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access] the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18"* (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16). Hence, Celik implies of a user inputting business contact information or other information such as contact information of business acquaintances, family members, friends, etc. into the database on the remote computer.

However, Celik does not explicitly disclose,

- *forming a distribution list of the contacts of the user using the information regarding contacts the user; and*

Delany teaches,

- *forming a distribution list of the contacts of the user using the information regarding contacts the user; and* (Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45)

Delany discloses, *"Often when sending e-mail, a distribution or "mailing list" is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people. For instance, instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members. Upon receiving an e-mail message sent to a predefined mailing list, the system's MTA hands off the message, with the name*

of the list, to the system's Mailing List Manager or MLM. After checking the message (e.g., privacy checking and verification that the message is legitimate for distribution), the MLM enumerates the individual recipients for the list and hands the message with a list of the specific intended recipients (i.e., with the names/e-mail addresses of the specific intended recipients attached) back to the MTA for redistribution. In this fashion, a mailing list can be used in the recipient field for an e-mail message, in lieu of listing individual members, so that a message sent to this distribution list goes to all recipients listed" (Delany, col.4, lines 26-44). Hence, Delany teaches of defining (i.e., Applicant's forming) a mailing list (i.e., Applicant's distribution list) containing a list of the specific intended recipients (i.e., Applicant's contacts of the user) with the names/e-mail addresses of the specific intended recipients (i.e., Applicant's information regarding contacts of the user).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Delany with the teachings of Celik to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1). However, Celik and Delany do not explicitly disclose,

- *providing the contact information regarding the user to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user, wherein the user is a registered user*

Art Unit: 2145

and the contact information is provided to contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users.

Chaganti teaches,

- *providing the contact information regarding the user to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user, wherein the user is a registered user and the contact information is provided to contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users.* (Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

Chaganti discloses, “The user account management module additionally allows the user 103 to change or to update the user's password, address, telephone number or any other information. The user can change or update his personal information any time after the account is established. Preferably, the user can also provide a list of entities that should be notified for each change. In one embodiment, each information object that is changed or updated is notified to a list of authorized recipients automatically. In another embodiment, a change or an update is provided to a requester 105 when a request is made” (Chaganti, col.8, lines 57-67). Chaganti discloses, “When the user 103 makes the changes, he makes these by accessing the server computer 100 web site and entering his information as described above. The user 103 elects or designates any requesters or recipients of change notifications. The server computer 100 automatically retrieves the information objects that changed and notifies the designated requesters or recipients via secure E-mail, or other methods indicated above (step 226)” (Chaganti, col.3, lines 1-17). Hence, Chaganti teaches of the server computer 100 automatically retrieving (i.e., Applicants' receiving) the

information objects that changed (i.e., Applicant's updated contact information of the user) and notifying (i.e., Applicant's providing) the information object that is changed or updated (i.e., Applicant's contact information regarding the user) to a list (i.e., Applicant's distribution list) of authorized recipients (i.e., Applicant's at least some of the contacts of the user) automatically (i.e., Applicant's automatically) along with any requesters or recipients (i.e., Applicant's non-registered users) from a list of entities (i.e., Applicant's distribution list), which the user elected or designated, that should be notified of each change via secure E-mail or other methods.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chaganti with the teachings of Celik and Delany to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1). In addition, Chaganti discloses, *"Additionally, there is no method whereby the user can update or make changes to the personal information stored at the single location--whether it is a single server computer or a collection of server computers comprising a distributed system--and cause the changes to be distributed to all persons or entities that need to be notified. Accordingly, there is a need for such a system and method"* (Chaganti, col.1, lines 51-57).

7. With regard to claims 4-5 and 16, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti disclose,

Art Unit: 2145

- *wherein providing the contact information to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list comprises sending an e-mail to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)
- *wherein the at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list are those contacts of the user on the distribution list having an e-mail address who are not registered users.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

8. With regard to claims 6-7, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti disclose,

- *wherein receiving contact information regarding the user comprises receiving by a server contact information regarding the user from a client.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)
- *wherein the server sends the e-mails to at least some the contacts of the user the distribution list.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

9. With regard to claims 9-10 and 12, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti disclose,

- *wherein the contact information regarding the user comprises updated contact information regarding the user.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)
- *wherein providing the contact information to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user comprises sending an e-mail to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)
- *further comprising data stamping the contact information of the user.* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31; Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45; Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

10. With regard to claim 15, Celik discloses,

- a server receiving contact information and a contact list for each of a plurality of users; (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)
- Celik teaches of “an information management method [that] includes step of ... storing information coupled to a remote computer” (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing “a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access]

the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18" (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16). Hence, Celik teaches of a server containing a database used to store the unique user identification numbers.

- *a mass storage device coupled to the server, the mass storage device storing the contact information and the contact list for each of the plurality of users;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)

Celik teaches of *"an information management method [that] includes step of ... storing information coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55) by allowing *"a user (hereinafter User 1) of the first personal computer 12 to [access] the remote computer over the internet to input business contact information of User 1 or other information that User 1 wishes to store in the database 18"* (Celik, col.4, lines 12-16). Hence, Celik teaches of a server containing a database used to store the unique user identification numbers.

- *wherein the server is configured to:*
 - *assign an identifier to the contact information of each of the plurality of users;* (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)

Celik teaches of *"the information management method includes steps of assigning a first user a unique user identification number, storing information related to the first user in a remote database operatively coupled to a remote computer"* (Celik, col.1, lines 51-55). In addition, according to Celik, *"the remote database containing contact information for each of a plurality of*

users of the information management system, wherein each of the users is assigned a unique user identification number” (Celik, col.2, lines 11-15).

Hence, Celik teaches of assigning each user a unique identification number.

- *date stamp the contact information of each of the plurality of users; (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)*

Celik discloses, *“both the synchronizer and the database maintain an update log indicating the last time that contact information for a user has been updated. The update log in the database indicates the last time that the user edited his contact information in the database, and the update log in the synchronizer indicates the last time that the contact information in the PIM for the user has been updated” (Celik, col.10, lines 11-18).* Hence, Celik teaches of indicating the last time that contact information for a user has been updated or synchronized through the use of date stamping.

- *determine whether the contact information of a specific user is synchronized with contact list of another specific user; (Celik, col.1, lines 50-58; col.2, lines 8-26; col.4, lines 8-22; col.4, line 64 – col.5, line 15; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 28; col.10, lines 11-31)*

Celik discloses, *“both the synchronizer and the database maintain an update log indicating the last time that contact information for a user has been updated. The update log in the database indicates the last time that the user edited his contact information in the database, and the update log in the synchronizer indicates the last time that the contact information in the PIM for the user has been updated” (Celik, col.10, lines 11-18).* Hence, Celik teaches

of indicating the last time that contact information for a user has been updated or synchronized through the use of date stamping.

However, Celik does not explicitly disclose,

- a server receiving contact information and contact list information for each of a plurality of users;

Delany teaches,

- a server receiving contact information and contact list information for each of a plurality of users; (Delany, col.4, line 22 – col.5, line 45)

Delany discloses, "Often when sending e-mail, a distribution or "mailing list" is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people. For instance, instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members. Upon receiving an e-mail message sent to a predefined mailing list, the system's MTA hands off the message, with the name of the list, to the system's Mailing List Manager or MLM. After checking the message (e.g., privacy checking and verification that the message is legitimate for distribution), the MLM enumerates the individual recipients for the list and hands the message with a list of the specific intended recipients (i.e., with the names/e-mail addresses of the specific intended recipients attached) back to the MTA for redistribution. In this fashion, a mailing list can be used in the recipient field for an e-mail message, in lieu of listing individual members, so that a message sent to this distribution list goes to all recipients listed" (Delany, col.4, lines 26-44). Hence, Delany teaches of defining (i.e., Applicant's forming) a mailing list (i.e., Applicant's distribution list) containing a list of the specific

intended recipients (i.e., Applicant's contacts of the user) with the names/e-mail addresses of the specific intended recipients (i.e., Applicant's information regarding contacts of the user).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Delany with the teachings of Celik to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1).

However, Celik and Delany do not explicitly disclose,

- *provide the contact information of a specific user to at least some of the users indicated in the contact list for the specific user automatically when the contact information for the specific user changes.*

Chaganti teaches,

- *provide the contact information of a specific user to at least some of the users indicated in the contact list for the specific user automatically when the contact information for the specific user changes.* (Chaganti, col.1, line 7 – col.16, line 19)

Chaganti discloses, *"The user account management module additionally allows the user 103 to change or to update the user's password, address, telephone number or any other information. The user can change or update his personal information any time after the account is established. Preferably, the user can also provide a list of entities that should be notified for each*

change. In one embodiment, each information object that is changed or updated is notified to a list of authorized recipients automatically. In another embodiment, a change or an update is provided to a requester 105 when a request is made" (Chaganti, col.8, lines 57-67). Chaganti discloses, "When the user 103 makes the changes, he makes these by accessing the server computer 100 web site and entering his information as described above. The user 103 elects or designates any requesters or recipients of change notifications. The server computer 100 automatically retrieves the information objects that changed and notifies the designated requesters or recipients via secure E-mail, or other methods indicated above (step 226)" (Chaganti, col.3, lines 1-17). Hence, Chaganti teaches of the server computer 100 automatically retrieving (i.e., Applicants' receiving) the information objects that changed (i.e., Applicant's updated contact information of the user) and notifying (i.e., Applicant's providing) the information object that is changed or updated (i.e., Applicant's contact information regarding the user) to a list (i.e., Applicant's distribution list) of authorized recipients (i.e., Applicant's at least some of the contacts of the user) automatically (i.e., Applicant's automatically) along with any requesters or recipients (i.e., Applicant's non-registered users) from a list of entities (i.e., Applicant's distribution list), which the user elected or designated, that should be notified of each change via secure E-mail or other methods.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chaganti with the teachings of Celik and Delany to provide an information management method wherein *"instead of*

Art Unit: 2145

addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members" (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *"a distribution or 'mailing list' is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people"* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1). In addition, Chaganti discloses, *"Additionally, there is no method whereby the user can update or make changes to the personal information stored at the single location--whether it is a single server computer or a collection of server computers comprising a distributed system--and cause the changes to be distributed to all persons or entities that need to be notified. Accordingly, there is a need for such a system and method"* (Chaganti, col.1, lines 51-57).

11. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Celik (US006374259B1), in view of Delany et al. (US006658454B1), in view of Chaganti et al. (US006845448B1), and further in view of Fisher et al. (US006047264A).
12. With regard to claims 13-14, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti disclose,
See *claim 3* rejection as detailed above.
However, Celik, Delany, and Chaganti do not explicitly disclose,
 - *further comprising maintaining at least one flag indicating whether a contact of the user should receive automatic updates of contact information of the user.*
 - *further comprising maintaining at least one flag indicating whether the user should receive automatic updates of contact information of a contact of the user.*Fisher teaches,

- *further comprising maintaining at least one flag indicating whether a contact of the user should receive automatic updates of contact information of the user.*
(Fisher, col.1, line 56 – col.2, line 40; col.3, line 59 – col.4, line 27)
Fisher teaches of a *“status receiver 14 [that] signals electronic mail messenger 15, via an ‘Updated Status’ flag in the appropriate database records, that a new update message should be sent”* (Fisher, col.4, lines 4-8). Hence, Fisher teaches the use of a flag to indicate that a particular record should receive automatic updates upon their availability.
- *further comprising maintaining at least one flag indicating whether the user should receive automatic updates of contact information of a contact of the user.*
(Fisher, col.1, line 56 – col.2, line 40; col.3, line 59 – col.4, line 27)
Fisher teaches of a *“status receiver 14 [that] signals electronic mail messenger 15, via an ‘Updated Status’ flag in the appropriate database records, that a new update message should be sent”* (Fisher, col.4, lines 4-8). Hence, Fisher teaches the use of a flag to indicate that a particular record should receive automatic updates upon their availability.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Fisher with the teachings of Celik, Delany, and Chaganti to provide an information management method wherein *“instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members”* (Delany, col.4, lines 29-31) wherein *“a distribution or ‘mailing list’ is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people”* (Delany, col.2, line 66 – col.3, line 1).

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to *claims 3 and 15* have been considered but they are not persuasive.
14. With regard to *claim 3*, the Applicant points out that:
- That *"instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply to find a mailing list to comprise those members"* (Delany et al., col. 4, lines 29-31) does not disclose or suggest *"forming a distributional list of the contacts of the user using the information regarding contacts of the user"* as specified in claim 3. Accordingly, claim 3 is allowable as are dependent claims 4-7, 9-10, and 12-14.

However, the Examiner finds that the Applicant's arguments are not persuasive because Delany discloses, *"Often when sending e-mail, a distribution or "mailing list" is employed to facilitate the process of sending an e-mail message to a group of people. For instance, instead of addressing an e-mail message to individual members of a recurring group, a user can instead simply define a mailing list to comprise those members. Upon receiving an e-mail message sent to a predefined mailing list, the system's MTA hands off the message, with the name of the list, to the system's Mailing List Manager or MLM. After checking the message (e.g., privacy checking and verification that the message is legitimate for distribution), the MLM enumerates the individual recipients for the list and hands the message with a list of the specific intended recipients (i.e., with the names/e-mail addresses of the specific intended recipients attached) back to the MTA for redistribution. In this fashion, a*

Art Unit: 2145

mailing list can be used in the recipient field for an e-mail message, in lieu of listing individual members, so that a message sent to this distribution list goes to all recipients listed" (Delany, col.4, lines 26-44). Hence, Delany teaches of defining (i.e., Applicant's forming) a mailing list (i.e., Applicant's distribution list) containing a list of the specific intended recipients (i.e., Applicant's contacts of the user) with the names/e-mail addresses of the specific intended recipients (i.e., Applicant's information regarding contacts of the user).

15. With regard to claim 3, the Applicant points out that:

- *Delany et al. does not appear to disclose or suggest "providing contact information regarding a user...automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user" as specified by claim 3.*
- *The Office action indicates that Chaganti et al. teaches such, with the Office action pointing to col. 1, line 7 through col. 16, line 19 of Chaganti et al., namely more than fifteen columns of text in Chaganti et al.*

However, the Examiner finds that the Applicant's arguments are not persuasive because the Examiner did not rely on Delany to teach this limitation. Instead, the Examiner specifically quoted the relevant portions of Chaganti teaching these limitations, namely Chaganti discloses, *"The user account management module additionally allows the user 103 to change or to update the user's password, address, telephone number or any other information. The user can change or update his personal information any time after the account is established. Preferably, the user can also provide a list of entities that should be notified for each change. In one embodiment, each information object that is changed or updated is notified to a list of*

authorized recipients automatically. In another embodiment, a change or an update is provided to a requester 105 when a request is made" (Chaganti, col.8, lines 57-67). Chaganti discloses, "When the user 103 makes the changes, he makes these by accessing the server computer 100 web site and entering his information as described above. The user 103 elects or designates any requesters or recipients of change notifications. The server computer 100 automatically retrieves the information objects that changed and notifies the designated requesters or recipients via secure E-mail, or other methods indicated above (step 226)" (Chaganti, col.3, lines 1-17). Hence, Chaganti teaches of the server computer 100 automatically retrieving (i.e., Applicants' receiving) the information objects that changed (i.e., Applicant's updated contact information of the user) and notifying (i.e., Applicant's providing) the information object that is changed or updated (i.e., Applicant's contact information regarding the user) to a list (i.e., Applicant's distribution list) of authorized recipients (i.e., Applicant's at least some of the contacts of the user) automatically (i.e., Applicant's automatically) along with any requesters or recipients (i.e., Applicant's non-registered users) from a list of entities (i.e., Applicant's distribution list), which the user elected or designated, that should be notified of each change via secure E-mail or other methods.

16. With regard to claim 3, the Applicant points out that:

- *As an initial matter, Chaganti et al. appears to teach away from the invention claimed in claim 3. Chaganti et al. states that "preferably, the user can also provide a list of entities that should be notified for each change. Claim 3, to the contrary, is to a method of updating personal information by using a computer,*

which includes forming a distributional list to the contacts of the user using the information regarding contacts of the user.

However, the Examiner finds that the Applicant's arguments are not persuasive because Chaganti discloses, *"The user account management module additionally allows the user 103 to change or to update the user's password, address, telephone number or any other information. The user can change or update his personal information any time after the account is established. Preferably, the user can also provide a list of entities that should be notified for each change. In one embodiment, each information object that is changed or updated is notified to a list of authorized recipients automatically. In another embodiment, a change or an update is provided to a requester 105 when a request is made"* (Chaganti, col.8, lines 57-67). Chaganti discloses, *"When the user 103 makes the changes, he makes these by accessing the server computer 100 web site and entering his information as described above. The user 103 elects or designates any requesters or recipients of change notifications. The server computer 100 automatically retrieves the information objects that changed and notifies the designated requesters or recipients via secure E-mail, or other methods indicated above (step 226)"* (Chaganti, col.3, lines 1-17). Hence, Chaganti teaches of the server computer 100 automatically retrieving (i.e., Applicants' receiving) the information objects that changed (i.e., Applicant's updated contact information of the user) and notifying (i.e., Applicant's providing) the information object that is changed or updated (i.e., Applicant's contact information regarding the user) to a list (i.e., Applicant's distribution list) of authorized recipients (i.e., Applicant's at least some of the contacts of the user) automatically (i.e., Applicant's automatically) along with any requesters or recipients (i.e., Applicant's

non-registered users) from a list of entities (i.e., Applicant's distribution list), which the user elected or designated, that should be notified of each change via secure E-mail or other methods.

17. With regard to claims 3 and 15, the Applicant points out that:

- *Moreover, in Chaganti et al., "the server computer 100 establishes accounts for potential requestors, allocates identifiers, authenticates their trustworthiness and enables them to establish a payment/billing plan for existing information objects stored by the user 103. Chaganti et al., col. 10, lines 32-36. Chaganti et al. also states that the server computer 100 automatically retrieves the information objects that change and notifies the designated requestor as a recipient's through secure e-mail, or other methods indicated above. Chaganti et al., col. 13, lines 10-14.*
- *Chaganti et al. does not appear to otherwise discuss a secure e-mail, but from the discussion above cited it appears that secure e-mails are necessarily for requestors, who have established accounts with the server computer (Chaganti et al., col. 10, lines 32-36.). Accordingly, claim 3 is further allowable.*

However, the Examiner finds that the Applicant's arguments are not persuasive because Chaganti discloses, *"In a preferred embodiment, potential requesters are also enrolled by the PIRSP in a similar manner as described for the user 103 (step 214). The server computer 100 establishes accounts for potential requesters, allocates identifiers, authenticates their trustworthiness and enables them to establish a payment/billing plan for accessing information objects stored by the user 103. In one embodiment, where there are a number of users, statistical information,*

Art Unit: 2145

rather than individual pieces of information objects is offered for sale to potential requesters. In other embodiments, the potential requesters do not establish accounts with the PIRSP, and will pay as they go for each access of information as described below" (Chaganti, col.10, lines 30-42). Hence, Chaganti teaches of potential requesters (i.e., Applicant's users) who do not have to establish accounts (i.e., Applicant's not registered).

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Duong whose telephone number is 571/272-3911. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM - 4:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason D. Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571/273-8300 for regular communications and 571/273-8300 for After Final communications.

/Thomas Duong/

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145

June 25, 2008